

**Statistic:** Iowa Unemployment Claims

**Analysis:**

Over the last 12 months, the number of lowans receiving their first unemployment payment for the benefit year totaled 86,111 (blue line), a level that is similar to the lowest level of the post-recovery period after the 2001 U.S. recession. The 12-month total has been trending lower in recent years, indicating a stable labor situation. The May 2017 first payment number was 4,693, which is 22 above the reading from the previous May.

Over the past 12 months, the number of lowans receiving their final unemployment payment (exhaustion of benefit eligibility) totaled 22,409 (red line). After the 2001 recession, the annual total of final payments dipped below 22,000. At 1,780, the May 2017 reading equaled the final payment number for last May.

For both unemployment claim statistics, levels are low and have been for the past three years. The numbers continue to indicate the Iowa economy remains strong, and in most instances, a lack of qualified employees is likely a bigger issue than a lack of available jobs.

Additional information can be found on the Legislative Services Agency's Economic Trends webpage at <https://www.legis.iowa.gov/publications/fiscal/economicTrends>. The webpage includes links to source sites and the underlying data for each Economic Trends indicator.

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